AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (amended): A ticket counter comprising:

a transport mechanism for transporting tickets, said tickets having first and second longitudinal edges substantially oriented parallel to a direction of travel of said tickets in said transport mechanism, from an inlet, past a sensor, said transport mechanism maintaining contact with the tickets while exposing ~~an outer edge~~ said first and second longitudinal edges of the tickets;

a sensor adjacent the transport mechanism and positioned to read ~~the exposed outer edge~~ one of said first and second exposed longitudinal edges of said ticket while said ticket is being transported by the transport mechanism, the sensor determining a quantity of tickets transported by the transport mechanism past the sensor and generating a signal corresponding to said quantity;

a computer in communication with said sensor for receiving said signal from the sensor; and

a ~~printer~~ receipt generator connected to said computer for printing the quantity of tickets transported by the transport mechanism past the sensor.

Claims 2 - 3 (canceled)

4. (amended) The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a <u>video</u> display screen connected to the computer.

5. (original) The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays animation while the tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism.

6. (original) The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays a quiz while the tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism, said ticket counter further comprising input means to allow a user to respond to the quiz displayed by the display screen.

7. (original) The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays advertisement.

8. (original) The ticket counter of claim 4 wherein the display screen displays a game of dexterity while the tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism, said ticket counter further comprising input means to allow a user to participate in the game of dexterity.

9. (original) The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the computer records information encoded on the tickets.

10. (original) The ticket counter of claim 9 wherein the information encoded on the tickets includes the distributor of the tickets.

11. (original) The ticket counter of claim 9 wherein the information encoded on the tickets includes a time that the tickets were distributed.

12. (amended) The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein said transport mechanism comprises a pair of opposed endless belts rotating in opposite directions at a common

speed to carry the tickets therebetween, at least one of the pair of endless belts having a width less than the width of the tickets to enable the sensor to read ~~the outer edge~~ <u>one of the longitudinal edges</u> of the tickets.

13. (original) The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a ticket shredding mechanism for destroying the tickets transported by the transport mechanism past the sensor.

14. (original) The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor detects light passing through the tickets.

15. (original) The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor interprets bar codes imprinted on the tickets.

16. (amended) The ticket counter of claim 1, wherein the sensor is positioned to interpret bar codes imprinted on ~~the outer edge~~ <u>one of the first and second longitudinal edges</u> of the tickets.

17. (original) The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the sensor is adapted to interpret bar codes imprinted with translucent ink.

18. (original) The ticket counter of claim 17 wherein the translucent ink comprises a fluorescent ink.

19. (amended) The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a second sensor positioned at ~~a second outer edge~~ <u>one of said first and second longitudinal edges</u> of the tickets to read ~~an opposite exposed edge of the tickets~~ <u>information printed on said one of said first and second longitudinal edges</u> of the tickets while said tickets are being transported by the transport mechanism.

20.   (original) The ticket counter of claim 1 wherein the sensor is adapted to recognize counting markers imprinted on the ticket and determine a quantity of tickets passing by the sensor by the number of recognized counting markers on the tickets.

21.   (original) The ticket counter of claim 20 wherein the counting markers correspond to a geometric shape spanning two adjacent tickets and bisected by perforations separating the two adjacent tickets.

22.   (original) The ticket counter of claim 20 wherein the markers are imprinted with an opaque ink.

23.   (original) The ticket counter of claim 20, wherein the counting markers occur on a common edge of the tickets with a bar code imprinted on the tickets.

24.   (original) The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising an optical sensor for actuating the transport mechanism upon detection of a ticket at the inlet.

25.   (original) The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising a second sensor to read an opposite side of the tickets while the tickets are transported by the transport mechanism.

26.   (original) The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising user input means for terminating the ticket counting process and initiating a receipt print operation.

27.   (original) The ticket counter of claim 1 further comprising data transmitting means for transmitting data recorded by the computer to a remote computer.

28.   (new)   A ticket counting machine comprising:

        a transport mechanism for moving translucent tickets from a ticket receiving inlet, past a ticket counting station, to a ticket destruction station;

a light source positioned at the ticket counting station along a path defined by the travel of a longitudinal edge of a translucent ticket, said light source located so as to transmit light through a translucent portion of said ticket along said longitudinal edge and so as to not transmit light through an opaque portion of said ticket along said longitudinal edge;

a sensor positioned at the ticket counting station for sensing light passing through said longitudinal edge of the translucent ticket at the translucent portion and for sensing no light passing through said translucent ticket at said opaque portion, and generating a signal based upon the sensing of said translucent portions and said opaque portions of said ticket;

a processor for receiving said signal and displaying a total number of tickets moved by the transport mechanism; and

a ticket destruction mechanism for cutting tickets at the ticket destruction station.

29.   (new) The ticket counting machine of Claim 28 further comprising a barcode reader at said ticket counting station for reading a bar code imprinted on the ticket at said longitudinal edge along said translucent portion of said ticket.

30.   (new) The ticket counting machine of Claim 28 further comprising video display means for generating a video image during a ticket counting operation.

31.   (new) The ticket counting machine of Claim 28 further comprising a receipt generating device coupled to the processor for printing a receipt including a total number of tickets counted by the sensor.